

Message Text

SECRET

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12
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PRS-01

SP-02 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

MC-01 IGA-01 OMB-01 /053 W
----- 056308

R 090735Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1608
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABA
CINCPAC

S E C R E T DACCA 4055

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MASS, BG, US
SUBJ: ARMS FOR BANGLADESH

REF: A) DACCA 3771; B) STATE 190256

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN CALLED ME IN TODAY
TO HAND ME ANUPDATED LIST OF BDG MILITARY EQUIPMENT RE-
QUIREMENTS IN PURSUIT OF ADMIRAL KHAN'S CONVERSATION
WITH ME JULY 23. FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD TOLD ME AT
DINNER FRIDAY
NIGHT THAT HE HAD BEEN UNDER PRESSURE
FROM ADMIRAL KHAN AND GENERAL ZIA TO CALL ME IN TO
PROVIDE THIS LIST BUT HE HAD NOT BEEN SURE THAT THIS
WAS APPROPRIATE STEP AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF OUR PRE-
VIOUS CONVERSATIONS AND THE FACT THAT THERE WAS ALREADY
AN EARLIER LIST OUTSTANDING. WHEN I TOLD HIM FRIDAY
NIGHT THAT ADMIRAL KHAN HAD ALREADY ADVISED ME
THAT THE LIST WOULD BE

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FORTHCOMING AND THAT I HAD

SIMILARLY INFORMED WASHINGTON WHICH WAS EXPECTING THE NEW LIST, FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THIS REMOVED THE DOUBT IN HIS MIND AND HE WOULD GO AHEAD AND SUBMIT THE NEW LIST TO ME THIS WEEK.

2. IN HIS CONVERSATION THIS MORNING, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY NOTED THEIR FEELING THAT ADMIRAL KHAN'S DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON HAD PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR BELIEVING THAT THERE MIGHT BE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING NOW OF THEIR NEEDS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID, THAT THE NEW LIST WAS BEING SUBMITTED TO US';

3. BRIGADIER M. A. MANZUR, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE CONVERSATION, ASKED ME FOR MY PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE BDG REQUEST. I SAID THIS WAS BY NO MEANS THE FIRST TIME THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ME AND I HAD TRIED TO BE CAREFUL IN ALL OF THESE CONVERSATIONS TO AVOID ENCOURAGING OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW OF COURSE WHAT MIGHT BE THE FINAL RESULT OF ADMIRAL KHAN'S CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON BUT IT WAS CERTAINLY CLEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO BANGLADESH WAS NOT AN EASY ONE FOR US. WE WERE COMFORTABLE WITH OTHER FORMS OF AID TO BANGLADESH BUT NOT WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT. BRIGADIER MANZUR SAID HE APPRECIATED THIS FACT. HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT BDG HAD ALREADY BEGUN COMMERCIAL PURCHASE OF SOME U.S. COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND FURTHER PURCHASES ARE IN PROSPECT.

4. BDG LIST, COMPRISING ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE COMPONENTS, WILL BE SUBMITTED IN SEPTEMBER.
BOSTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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